



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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HB 2579 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

**House Committee on
Energy and Environmental Protection**

**Public Hearing - January 29, 1996
7:00 P.M., Room 312, State Capitol**

**By
John T. Harrison, Environmental Center
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant**

HB 2579 would require the department of health to establish a 24-hour hotline to receive emergency notices of hazardous substance releases. The measure further would require anyone who releases pollutants, contaminants, or hazardous substances to notify the department of health within 15 minutes of the release.

Our statement on this measure is compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of listed academic sources, and as such, does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The final report of the Oil Spill Response Study conducted by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Office contained a recommendation that a hazardous substance release hot line be established in the department of health. The intent of this recommendation was to provide immediate routing of emergency information to the appropriate agency for remedy. It was felt that not only would such a service facilitate effective early response, but rapid reaction to threats to public safety would reduce risks of injuries.

HB 2579 implements this recommendation. In addition, by imposing a notification requirement on persons who have immediate knowledge of a release, the measure provides for the earliest possible mobilization of assets to contain and remediate the hazard, thereby minimizing environmental damage.